

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 112386
ORIGIN ARA-14

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PN, BDIS, ECRE, EAIR

SUBJECT:CLAIM REGARDING CONSTRUCTION OF TERMINAL FOR NEW
PANAMA AIRPORT

REFERENCE: WAGNER/PANOS TELECON, APRIL 3, 1978

1. SINCE APRIL 3, DESK HAS OBTAINED INFORMATION ABOUT THE CLAIM BY A TEXAN FIRM AGAINST THE PANAMANIAN GOVERNMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION WORK AT THE NEW TOCUMEN AIRPORT. THE COMPANY IS LINBECK CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION (LEO E. LINBECK, JR., CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER), 3810 WEST ALABAMA, HOUSTON, TEXAS. OTHER COMPANIES INVOLVED, POSSIBLY SUBSIDIARIES, ARE LINBECK INTERNATIONAL COMPANY, AND CONSORCIO LINBECK-CONSTRUCTORA LATINOAMERICANA, S.A. (P.O. BOX 22500, HOUSTON, TEXAS 77027, PHONE: (713) 621-2350). THE COMPANY'S LAWYER IS OWEN W. CECIL OF FULBRIGHT AND JAWORSKI OF HOUSTON, TEXAS.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION DATES FROM MARCH 10, 1978.
LINBECK'S CONTRACT CALLED FOR DOLS 25 MILLION IN WORK. THE
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DECEMBER 1977 PAYMENT IS IN ARREARS, BUT WE DO NOT HAVE THE AMOUNT. THE COMPANY ALSO HAS CLAIMS OF DOLS 5.4 MILLION FOR DELAYS AND DISRUPTION COSTS. ON MARCH 10, 1978, LEO LINBECK, JAMES W. BRYDON (VICE PRESIDENT, LINBECK CON-

STRUCTION CORPORATION), AND CECIL MET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICERS TO DISCUSS THE CASE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE TREATY

DEBATE. THE COMPANY FEARED THAT SUB-CONTRACTORS AND OTHERS COULD HAVE MADE THE CASE A POLITICAL ISSUE. WE AGREED TO MAKE AN INFORMAL, ROUTINE INQUIRY WITH THE PANAMANIAN EMBASSY HERE, AND DID SO ON MARCH 31. WE HAVE HAD NO RESPONSE TO DATE AND CONTEMPLATE NO FURTHER ACTION AT THE MOMENT.

3. DEPARTMENT REQUESTS NO SPECIFIC ACTION BY EMBASSY. IF, HOWEVER, THE CASE COMES UP AGAIN, WE WILL REFER THE COMPANY TO THE EMBASSY. RICHARD WYROUHWILL DELIVER TO PANAMA A COPY OF OUR FILE ON THE SUBJECT FOR COMMERCIAL COUNSELLOR. VANCE

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